



## Director's Corner: Long-time Workforce Development Team Member to Change Hats

During her 30-year career within the Workforce Development system, Cathy Collop has seen “huge changes.”

She began working with Employment Security in 1985 when computers were connected to the mainframe and much of the work was completed by hand. Unemployment cards had to be hand-stamped; the clients had to register by filling out paperwork with paper and pen, then the data was entered in the system.

Over the years, Cathy has worn many hats. From her first role as a Clerk Typist, she transitioned to an Employment Services Technician. Later, she moved to the Division of Workforce Development and became a Volunteer Work Supervisor. In 2001, she became the DWD Supervisor in the Kirksville Center where hard work and dedication led to her promotion to Regional Manager in 2014.

“We’ve come a long way,” Cathy said. “Probably the biggest change I’ve seen over the years has been going from strictly a state agency to one with partners. While there have been many changes and challenges, what truly matters in the end is the outcome for our clients, both job seekers and businesses. We now have a wider array of services to offer, which is a true benefit to all.”

Next month, Cathy will take off her Workforce Development hat and put on an even more important hat, as she is expecting her third grandson. “It will be bitter sweet to leave such a great organization and all of my friends; however, I am very much looking forward to spending more quality time with family and helping out in the ‘Gramma’ role on a larger scale.”

“I’ve loved being a Regional Manager for DWD and getting to know so many fantastic staff in the offices in Region III. They are just phenomenal. There is not a harder working group in the State!”



For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at [jobs.mo.gov](http://jobs.mo.gov) or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).



Missouri Division of Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Missouri TTY users can call (800) 735-2966 or dial 7-1-1.

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Cathy leaves a word of advice for workforce staff, "To me, if we don't have our businesses, we don't have places to refer our clients, so I strongly recommend we strive to continue to build these relationships around the state. It's important to establish and continue to build trust and excellent working relationships with our businesses."

"I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to work with them through these past 30 years. I've been so lucky and truly blessed to have been part of the ES/DWD Team!"

**Cathy, THANK YOU for your long and dedicated career. Best to you in all your new endeavors!**

I know each Center or Region has success stories that go untold. We want to hear from you!

Email [dwdcommunications@ded.mo.gov](mailto:dwdcommunications@ded.mo.gov) and tell us about your success so we can share your story and celebrate with you!

Amy Sublett  
Director, DWD



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